

Item B

Proposal to Change the Name
of
The College of Allied Health Professions
to
The College of Health Sciences

Background

In the spring of 2001, a proposal to begin a discussion regarding a name change for the College of Allied Health Professions (CAHP) was submitted by a faculty member to the CAHP Faculty Council.

Rationale

From the perspective of the faculty, the name change seems appropriate and timely given that the words "allied" and "professions" no longer adequately describe the mission of the college. As we move toward an increase in the number of graduate programs, we are broadening the scope of our college to include an increased focus on the scientific base, as well as the traditional "professions" part of our disciplines.

Programmatic Considerations

Advantages

The new name is a better reflection of the mission of the college.
The term "allied" has a second-class citizen ring to those inside and outside the college.

Disadvantage

There is possible loss of name recognition to constituents within the state

Accreditation Criteria

Historically, colleges of allied health have had various names. Examples of these names include:

College of Health Professions
College of Health Sciences
College of Health & Human Services
College of Allied Health Sciences
College of Health & Human Sciences

In a review of names of allied health colleges, Collier (2001) reported that from 1994 to 2000 the number of schools using the name "Health Sciences" increased from 3 to 15. Additionally, in 2000, only about one-third used the name "Allied Health" compared to nearly half in 1994.

Further, the disciplines represented in these colleges are diverse and numerous. There is no one standard set of disciplines that constitutes such a college. There is no stated criterion related to the name of the college in the accreditation standards for any of the disciplines in the college.

Procedure

Following submission of the proposal to the Faculty Council In the Spring of 2001, the following describes the chronology of the process of discussion that led to a vote regarding the name change.

1. In April of 2001, a discussion regarding the proposal ensued at the CAHP monthly faculty meeting. The names utilized by benchmark institutions with similar programs were discussed. Such names include: The College of Health Professions, The College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, the College of Health Sciences, and The College of Health and Human Sciences.

It was agreed at that meeting that the faculty would have an email discussion to determine the rationale and degree of support for a name change, as well as suggestions for appropriate names.

To summarize this email discussion: the majority of people responding felt that a name change was appropriate because the words "allied" and "professions" no longer adequately described the mission of the College. Those who did not were concerned about the loss of name recognition that would accompany a name change, and were concerned there would be no other name that is more suitable.

2. During the summer of 2001, the chair of Faculty Council met with the Staff Council to receive input from the staff representatives regarding the name change. The staff council reported that the staff was in favor of a name change. By this time, the two primary name changes that had emerged were: The College of Health Sciences, and The College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. The staff council indicated support for the name The College of Health Sciences.

3. In September of 2001, the Faculty Council determined that support for a name change was indeed strong enough to support a formal proposal by the Faculty Council at the September College faculty meeting. The following proposal was made: The name of the College of Allied Health Professions should be changed to The College of Health Sciences. It was agreed upon through a hand vote that the proposal would be voted upon through a paper ballot to allow those not present to

have vote. The results of the paper ballot were: Yes: 31 (87%); No: 2 (5%); Abstain: 5 (13%). (Those voting "Yes" represent 63% of the voting members of the faculty.)

4. In October of 2001, Division Directors were asked to discuss the name change with representative students to gain an understanding of the support of the student body within the College. The overwhelming majority of the students who replied were in favor of the name change.

Individual Considerations

All constituents within the college were consulted about the name change proposal and were invited to provide feedback and comment. The vast majority of all constituents are in favor of the name change. This proposal is timely from a resource standpoint, as the signage for the new Allied Health Building has not yet been ordered. Prior to these discussions, we checked with the Chancellor's Office to determine the financial impact on the new building. We were instructed that no signage had been purchased. Additionally, the name change would require changing stationary and business cards. However, these changes will be necessary in light of the move to the new building.

Reference

Collier, S. (2001, March). What's in a name? Changes in composition and names of schools of allied health. *Trends*, 8-9.

Approval

The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the faculty of the College of Allied Health (CAHP), the Academic Organization and Structure Committee (Acting Chair, John Rawls) and is forwarded to the Senate with a positive recommendation from the Senate Council. If approved, the proposal will be sent to the Provost for appropriate administrative action.